movies

'Tom Jones' recreates Fielding's ribald classic

By David Nolan

Lively, sly, and rollicking, 'Tom Jones' is one of the best comedies in recent years, despite several rather futile attempts at turning it into a conventional television presentation. The plot and atmosphere of this ribald masterpiece bring it to the screen larger than life in all its glory.

It is concerned with the adventures and misadventures of young Tom, who was born to be hanged. As he is discovered by Squire Allworthy at the beginning of the film and is adopted by the Squire, to be raised by his own son, while Jenny Jones, one of the servants, is discovered in disgrace for having brought him into the world.

The next we see him, Tom is about twenty and is bending with life. His main interests are wine, women, and hunting — and his pursuit with an uncompro-
mising stake of the 'pragmatical, racy, and spiritual aspects of life.' In-
deed, contrast to his behavior is that of the Squire's nephew Blifil, who is pious, prissy, and sanctimonious to the point of nausea.

As he pursues this, it is discovered that he is discover-
ying Sophy is in turn followed by Squire Western, the benefi-
tul neighbor to the Squire's nephew Blifil, who is discovered
ternity and Sophy, however, leaves Tom, and Tom loves Sophy. Needing to
say, nobody except Tom and Sophy approves of this match, so
Sophy is in turn followed by Squire Western, Sophy Western's many little
day's from London, and all other forces for the community are
running for Blifil.

But his efforts take advantage of the Squire's condition and his child against all whose actions, although lacking in malice of any sort, have ad-
tually been somewhat less than extravagant. For one thing, he has been carrying on with the beauti-
ful and slyly Molly Sanderson, daughter of the villainous Blake George, former gambler to the Squire.

Thus is summarily expelled from the Squire's house, and followed by Sophy Western, Soph-
y is in turn followed by Squire Western and his sister. They are
to encounter friends, relatives, and various other characters in their
travels, and everybody chooses everybody except the Squire, who is pious, prissy, and sancti-

Through the film, the humor ranges from situation-comedy to the broadest slapstick, and is
spiced with liberal amounts of ribaldry, speed-dating chase se-
quences, and asides to the audi-
cnent.

The only weaknesses are the photography — which is often gimp-

tant, and the musical accom}

The acting, by and large, is ex-
cellent. Alton Finner, casted as Peppermint-Marked Woman, has a

largement of Tom, but

that of the Squire's nephew Blifil,

many of the right shots in the

woods are so poorly illuminated

but many of the night shots in the

range from
drama. The dicing chase of the

hunts in the early part of the pic-
ture and the dicing of the

treadwater. The Erich seems

handled particularly well photographically

little of the bright shots in the

woods are so poorly illuminated

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